

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2007

Harpswell Town Office

Approved on August 23, 2007

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Selectmen Present: Amy N. Haible, James S. Henderson and Chairman Samuel W. Alexander

Staff Present: Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator; William Wells, Code Enforcement Officer and Marguerite Kelly, Treasurer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alexander at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was videotaped and broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television.

1. Adoption of the Agenda: Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to adopt the agenda as printed; motion passed 3-0.

2. Town Administrator's Report: Deputy Administrator Sawyer reported that in follow up of concerns heard from property owners regarding lyme disease, the Town now has flyers and fact sheets available in the Town Office lobby and also a link on the Town website to the State's for more information. Additionally, the State of Maine Center for Disease Control has informed the Town that although incidences of lyme disease in the State have increased, Harpswell has remained consistent with an extremely low rate of cases. Ms. Sawyer encouraged everyone to follow the suggested preventive measures such as wearing light colored clothing with long sleeves, tuck your pants into your socks and apply tick repellent. Ms. Sawyer stated that at the July 26 meeting, the Board approved forwarding the three nominees that applied through the Town to be on the Board of Trustees of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority to the Governor's Office for review. Ms. Sawyer reported that on Monday, July 30, she was contacted by John Moncure who requested that his questionnaire be forwarded to the State as well and after speaking with 2 of the 3 Selectmen, it was provided to the Governor's Office. Ms. Sawyer announced the tax bills are being processed and property owners can expect their bills in their mailboxes by the end of next week.

3. Selectmen's Announcements: Selectman Haible informed the Board of a request she received to invite Debbie Atwood, Director of Meals on Wheels Program, to make a presentation to the Selectmen regarding the program. The Town Administrator was directed to make the arrangements. Selectman Haible informed the Board of a request she received from Mr. Newman to give permission for an anemometer to be installed on the proposed cell tower for the purposes of studying the wind. Selectman Haible recommended that the Town Administrator contact Mr. Newman to make arrangements. Selectman Haible announced the Fishing Families shore dinner will be held on Saturday, August 25 at Mitchell Field. Selectman Henderson reported that he attended a meeting on Tuesday with other communities (Brunswick, Bath, Lisbon, Durham, Topsham, Bowdoin and Bowdoinham) regarding school consolidation issues. Selectman Henderson stated that there were many options discussed, including Brunswick and SAD 75 consolidating services such as merging the Superintendent's Office. However, Brunswick's funding could be severely reduced if services are merged based on figures presented at the meeting. Selectman Henderson stated he spoke with Superintendent Wilhelm after the meeting and there appears to be two options: SAD 75 remain as is or merge administratively with Lisbon (Lisbon would still attend existing Lisbon schools). More information will be available after the Board meets with Superintendent Wilhelm. Chairman Alexander announced that at a special Selectmen's meeting on August 7, the Board set the tax rate at \$6.07 per thousand which is a .12 increase from 2006.

4. Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

5. Mitchell Field Update: Judith Redwine, chair of the Mitchell Field Committee, announced the Master Plan will be drafted on paper on August 21 at 6:30 pm at the West Harpswell Elementary School and she encouraged everyone to attend. The Board expressed appreciation for the work the Committee has done.

6. Selection of Emergency Services Study Consultant: Charlie Johnson, President of the Orr's and Bailey Island Fire Department Board of Directors, reported that he, Marguerite Kelly, Kristi Eiane and David Mercier reviewed the applicants and selected two finalists. The two finalists were interviewed and references were checked and based on that, the recommendation is to proceed with Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. Mr. Johnson stated that Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. has performed studies for many volunteer departments and that the choice was unanimous with the group to select them. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to accept the Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. proposal to perform the study; motion passed 3-0.

7. Committee Assignments: The Board agreed to not appoint the members of the Emergency Services Study Committee and requested that members of the public from the Orr's/Bailey Island and Cundy's Harbor Fire Department services areas apply to be members of this committee.

8. Treasurer's Report: Marguerite Kelly, Town Treasurer, reviewed her monthly report for July (attached as further reference).

9. Wharf Application for Heather Collins, Map 35, Lot 148, 18 Old Town Road: William Wells, Code Enforcement Officer, explained this proposal is to remove the end platform of an existing set of stairs and attach a ramp and float to the location. Mr. Wells recommended its approval as it doesn't adversely affect navigation or cause injury to the rights of others and there were no expressed concerns by abutters. Selectman Henderson questioned whether the public could cross over the structure at high tide (it is possible at low tide as it empties to mud flats); Mr. Wells indicated the cove empties and that high tide is very limited and the land drops off so dramatically that he didn't feel people would be passing. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve the application under the Wharves and Weirs Act as it doesn't create a hazard to navigation or impede the public's right in a significant degree; motion passed 3-0.

10. 7:00 Public Hearing Regarding Request to Designate Portion of Great Island Boatyard for Military Redevelopment Zone: Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to open the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.; motion passed 3-0. Mr. Rowe, owner of Great Island Boatyard, explained his request to have four of his seven acre site designated in the Military Redevelopment Zone to benefit from State payroll and sales tax deductions. Mr. Rowe stated he has a new business plan for the Boatyard that includes creating 10 new jobs which will pay on average \$42,000 including benefits. Jeff Sneddon, Midcoast Council for Business Development and Planning Program Administrator, stated that a business must meet certain performance standards to receive the benefits of the Military Redevelopment Zone. Mr. Sneddon informed the Board that if the 4 acres are needed at Mitchell Field that there is an option to apply for additional acreage. Judith Redwine, chair of Mitchell Field Committee, explained the Committee reviewed this proposal and agreed it is an opportunity for Harpswell, one the Committee endorses. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to close the hearing at 7:14 p.m.; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded Selectman Henderson to transfer four acres from Mitchell Field to the Great Island Boatyard site for the purpose of job creation and economic development; motion passed 3-0.

11. Consider Policy to Amend Military Redevelopment Zone Acreage: Selectman Haible read the proposed policy and moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to adopt it; motion passed 3-0.

12. Communications Advisory Committee Recommendations Re: FCC: Andy Paulhus, chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, reported that the Committee has reviewed the recent FCC filing by Comcast in which Comcast claims to be a true competitor and as such, they can raise their rates. Mr. Paulhus stated the Committee recommends the Board have Attorney Pat Scully review the filing to see if it would affect areas other than rates; if it is regarding rates only, then no action is necessary.

13. Consider Appointment to the Joint Board of the Cumberland County Regional Disaster Aid Agreement: Chairman Alexander explained the Town signed (in 2005) a Regional Disaster Aid Agreement with other communities which is now being implemented. To put the Agreement into action, towns are being asked to appoint a representative to the Joint Board which will oversee the process. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Habile to appoint William Labbe, Town Emergency Management Agent, to the Joint Board; motion passed 3-0.

14. Consider Date for Mitchell Field Draft Master Plan Presentation: Deputy Administrator Sawyer explained that the Town Planner, Jay Chace, has indicated he would like August 21 to be set as the date for presentation of the draft master plan to the Town. Judith Redwine pointed out that the 21st is intended as an additional workshop and that the draft plan will be ready for presentation in early September. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to set September 6 at the Selectmen's Meeting as the date for presentation of the draft master plan; motion passed 3-0.

15. Report on Status of Harpswell Community Broadcasting Corporation Contract: Selectman Henderson explained he reviewed both the Town's and HCBC's proposals from last year and has prepared a draft contract for review by the Board. Selectman Henderson noted that he removed a section that stated the Town would own all items purchased with Town funds as it would be difficult to track what HCBC purchases with the Town's annual appropriation. Selectman Henderson stated the Town owns the building, tower and transmitter which are not affected by the removal of that section. Selectman Henderson requested the Board review this draft and make comments soon as it needs to be provided to HCBC for review.

16. Authorization of the Warrant: Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator recommended approval of Warrant 42 and Payroll Warrant 36. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve Warrant 42 for \$680,230.00; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve Payroll Warrant 36 in the amount of \$14,461.10; motion passed 3-0.

17. Approval of the Minutes: Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve the July 26 minutes as printed; motion passed 3-0.

18. Public Comment: There were no public comments.

19. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer

Attachments: Treasurer's Report